PRICE SIXPENCE

New South Wales Soccer Football Association

Soccer Weekly News

Sat., 31st May

D.T. McLAREN *Editor*

GRAND SOCCER BALL

to be held at the

Trocadero, George St., Sydney

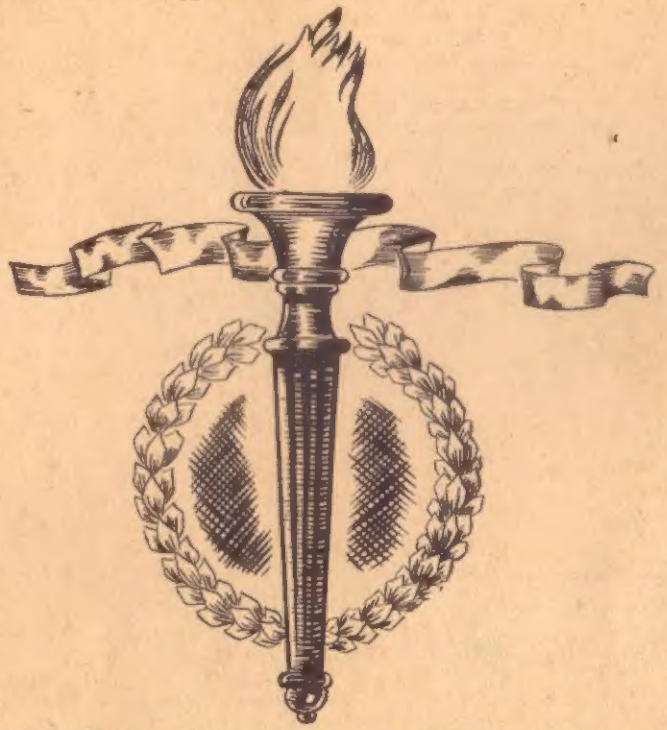
on

MONDAY, 9th JUNE, 1947

From 9 p.m. to 1 a.m.

To say Bon Voyage to the members of the 1947 Touring South African Soccer Football Team.

For Reservations : Ring Trocadero MA 6431. Tickets are available from all Club and Association secretaries at 12/6 each. Any patron desirous of attending this function should make early application as the number of tickets is limited. Net proceeds will be donated to the Sydney Legacy War Orphans Appeal.



Legacy wards from their earliest years are kept under constant supervision. Legacy provides free medical and dental care for wards, and attends to the education of the child throughout school years. Employment is found and supervision and advice is given in planning a career. Send donations to Director of Appeals, 169 Elizabeth St., Sydney.

SOUVENIR ISSUE - THIRD TEST

AUSTRALIA v. SOUTH AFRICA

Royal Sydney Showground, 31st May, 1947

The Third Test

Today's game, the 3rd Test, can rightly be considered the vital one of the tour. Much will depend on the result, as a win for the Springboks will undoubtedly signify their superiority. However, a victory for the home team or even a drawn game would do much to restore the morale of the team and place them with a fighting chance in the remaining tests.

Never at any time in the history of soccer in Australia has so much attention been paid to the physical fitness of the team. Win or lose, we can rest assured that everything is being done to place on the field a team capable of upholding the high traditions of Australian Soccer.

We have learned a great deal from the "Springboks." We admire their team work. Australians have an aptitude for learning quickly and it will not surprise if the tables are turned in today's game.

Australia is at her best with her back to the wall and we find ourselves in just such a position. To win the next three tests is a tall order but not an impossible task and when we consider that the "Springboks" victories against N.S.W. and in the first test were by the narrow margin of one goal, penalty kicks being converted, we can rightly claim that we had at least a sporting chance of success.

Having listened to the broadcast of the second test in Brisbane, I sensed that all is not well, tempers appeared to become frayed. Let us not forget that soccer is a game which lends itself to hard knocks. Britishers are proud of the fact that they can give a knock and take one in the true spirit of the game. Let us hope that this spirit prevails.

Unfortunately, Australians in past international games against such teams as India and China have been required to subdue their natural inclination to play vigorous football and it has been evident in the early stages of the present tour that the home player is reluctant to use his weight fearing that by so doing relationships between the teams may become strained.

The time has now arrived that the Australian must realise that to be really considered in world class so far as soccer is concerned we must win the games which remain to be played. Should it become necessary to use our physical attributes to the extreme then it must be done, providing that the laws of soccer football are not violated.

Soccer today is more than a pastime, it is a more than a game of football, it has become a struggle between nations for supremacy. The very prestige of the British peoples are at stake. The success of the Moscow Dynamos in their tour of Britain was heralded in U.S.S.R. as a national triumph, and so in the British Empire we find that supremacy of sport in the Dominions, particularly soccer, may be classed as a national triumph, entitling the victor to a just recognition by the English Football Association.

Third Back Game Criticised

As one of the footballers with a fondness for listening to and reading what other people say about the game, I suppose that every match is not so full of thrills as some onlookers would like.

I think some matches are dull because goals are apt to be rather scarce. There is a thrill about a game in which goals are being scored, and I know a number of people who seldom seem to appreciate a contest which ends with the score-sheet blank.

In my opinion these enthusiasts are wrong. Writing as a player, I say that some of the most thrilling matches in which I have ever taken part have ended in goal-less draws.

Surely the first idea regarding a goal-less draw is that the teams were equally matched—that it was "pull devil, pull baker" all the time—and equality is, in theory, at any rate, the very essence of a contest.

ATTACK THE BEST DEFENCE

Still, I can sympathise with people who believe that goal-less draws are dull games. Some of them must be, from the onlookers' standpoint, and it is in this connection that I want to point to a modern tendency which makes for dullness. This modern tendency is towards destructive rather than constructive football.

There used to be a good football slogan, oft repeated, to the effect that attack was the best kind of defence. Personally, I believe modern football would be improved if that motto were hung up in every dressing-room, and if the players of every big club could be induced to act up to it.

It is just as true to-day as ever it was, that attack is the best defence, but we seem to be in danger of forgetting. And dull football will surely result if concentration on defence becomes the master idea in tactics.

This idea, that some football is dull because of the necessity for attacking is overlooked, is a delicate one for me. In touching upon it I run certain risks; the suggestion may be made, for instance, that I am making excuses for myself. But the risk has to be run, so here goes!

Do you know what is my chief impression of centre half-backs in First League football to-day? It is a set of fellows who rather "fancy themselves" as policemen. They stick to me closer than a brother from start to finish of a match, and so long as they keep me from having a pot-shot at goal or really leading the forward line they seem to be absolutely happy.

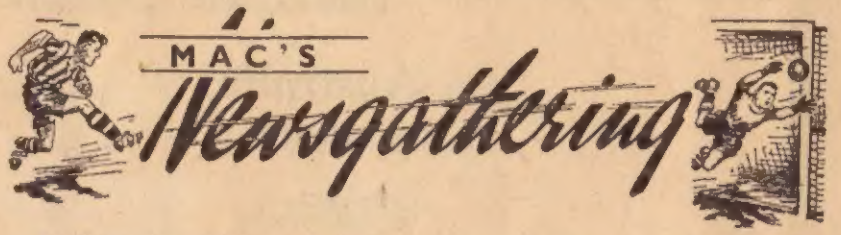
I suppose a player who is considered worthy of undivided attention ought to feel flattered. Perhaps I do, in a way, but right down at bottom I know that the centre half, who does nothing but shadow the opposing centre-forward, is making for dull football. The play of the centre-half, as I like to think of it, consists in the fellow occupying that position continually setting his forwards in motion; pushing the ball down the middle to his centre-forward, or along to the left or right wing.

WHY NOT HALF-FORWARDS?

That the centre-forward must defend at times is accepted by everybody. But that doesn't mean he should do nothing else but defend. Here is an idea which just occurs to me. How would it be if we altered the name of half-backs and called them half-forwards instead? They should certainly be just as much. Some of them don't seem to appreciate the fact.

Think what happens when the half-backs are almost entirely destructive. The forwards, who in the ordinary way would look to the half-backs for the ball, have to fetch and carry for themselves and having to do this throws the forward line out of gear, because the forward who goes back for the ball is out of position.

There is nothing in football, in my opinion, so pretty to watch as a forward movement in which every member of the attack takes part, and if that movement is finished with a quick shot into the net, then the happiness of the spectators should be complete. But matches in which half-backs forget the attacking duties are almost certain to be more or less dull.



● Interesting Extract from report from South African paper, contributed by Reg. Wright.

"Spoiling all high praise for the Springboks are reports of blundering by the Australian Officials. There has been a lot written about poor arrangements, accommodation, mis-fired appointments and so on, but it is unfair to put the blame entirely on the Australians.

I cannot help feeling that had more diplomacy and patience been shown by the South African manager many difficulties would have been smoothed away and much of the adverse publicity avodied.

● The team returning from Brisbane by air had a bumpy way.

● It is pleasing to note that our boys took their defeat like true Australians.

● A much wiser team will take the field today. Reg Date and Norm. Conquest have been sporting some man-sized bruises. All in the game, boys.

● Reg Wright, journalist with the touring team, was no mean exponent of the round ball game. Reg, I believe, has international honours.

● Reports from Brisbane go further to enhance the popularity of Pop. Taylor, co-manager of the Springboks.

● The Springboks, during their sojourn in the North, will be residing at the Hotel Toronto, one of the most delightful spots in New South Wales.

● Called in at the Show Ground last week to witness N.S.W. play Queensland at Rugby Union, I would suggest that the players carry trowels to dig holes to place the ball, a more efficient manner than doing it with the heel of the boot.

● Drummoyne held Corrimal to a one all draw till twenty minutes from time and then collapsed. A bit more condition and the Drummoyne boys will be handing out shocks.

● Frank Parson, of Leichhardt, is now the leading goal scorer in the South. Jock McMahon had a run out with Leichhardt's Alliance team last Saturday. Wee Jock is just recovering from a knee operation.

● The Public Schools Amateur Athletic Association are doing a grand job for Soccer. To conduct an inter-city and interstate carnival is no mean achievement.

DATES TO REMEMBER

NEWCASTLE v. SOUTH AFRICA, Newcastle, 4th June.

AUSTRALIA v. SOUTH AFRICA, 4th Test, Newcastle, 7th June.

SOUTH COAST v. SOUTH AFRICA, Bulli, 11th June.

AUSTRALIA v. SOUTH AFRICA, 5th Test, Showground, 14th June.

N.S.W. v. SOUTH AFRICA, to be arranged, 16th June.

Selected Teams for To-day's Matches

Australia

WHITE

Goal-keeper
N. CONQUEST

1. **J. MARSTON** *Right Back*
2. **C. DRUMMOND** *Left Back*
3. **L. GIBB** *Right Half Back*
4. **W. WILSON** *Centre Half Back*
5. **A. HEANEY** *Left Half Back*
7. **J. CUNNINGHAM** *Inside Right*
9. **R. HUGHES** *Inside Left*
6. **E. KEMP** *Outside Right*
8. **R. DATE** *Centre Forward*
10. **M. WYNN** *Outside Left*

Manager: Mr. S. L. Piaud

Trainer: Mr. T. Langridge

Reserves **R. MURRAY** **J. PARKES**

Referee: Mr. W. McWILLIAMS

Kick-off, 3.15 p.m.

South Africa

GREEN & GOLD

1 **J. PICKERILL** *Goal-keeper*
14 **R. NICHOLSON** *Right Back*
3 **E. DOWELL** *Left Back*
4 **C. KURLAND** *Right Half Back*
5 **H. NAISH** *Centre Half Back*
6 **D. FORBES** *Left Half Back*
8 **G. FALCONER** *Inside Right*
10 **H. SMETHURST** *Inside Left*
7 **D. A. WILSON** *Outside Right*
18 **J. CLASSENS** *Centre Forward*
11 **L. ANLEY** *Outside Left*

Reserve

Manager: Mr. J. Barbour

Trainer: Mr. S. Wiltshire

Linesmen: Mr. F. CHIDGEY, Mr. H. SPOWALL

METROPOLITAN FIRST GRADE (Competition) 1.15 p.m.

NEWTOWN DISTRICT

Coloure
Sky Blue

R. BOL

L. BEARD G. SMITH
L. BARTLETT A. MELLON W. INGERSOLE
C. BARTLETT E. McFARLANE
G. NIELSEN (*Capt.*) R. NIELSEN A. WALKER

Reserve
J. BARTLETT

Manager
G. NIELSEN(*Sen.*)

Referee: W. TURNER

R. Date

CONCORD DISTRICT

Coloure
White. Black V.

W. JOHNSON

F. NORTON (*Capt.*) T. WAKEHAM
K. KNOWLSON J. GEEKIE K. IRVING
J. ALLEN J. NEIL
D. ABERCROMBIE L. SPRINGETT A. KNOWLSON

Reserve
R. JOHNSON

Manager
J. MORTON

Linesmen: H. HEGGEN, H. TOVEY

H. Smethurst

Public Schools AMATEUR ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION 12 noon
METROPOLIS *Green* v. QUEENSLAND *Maroon*

Referee: Mr. R. WOODS

Linesmen: H. HEGGAN, H. TOVEY

DIAGRAMS ILLUSTRATING POINTS IN CONNECTION WITH OFF-SIDE

NOTE

The players marked X are attacking the goal, and those marked O are defending.

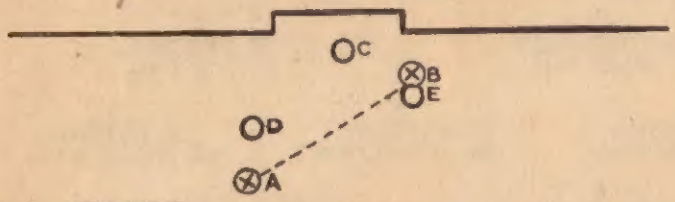


Diagram 1.—OFF-SIDE.

Clear pass to one of same side.

A has run the ball up, and having **D** in front passes to **B**. **B** is off-side because there are not two opponents between him and the goal-line when the ball is passed by **A**.

If **B** waits for **E** to fall back before he shoots, this will not put him on-side, because it does not alter his position to **A** at the moment the ball was passed by **A**.

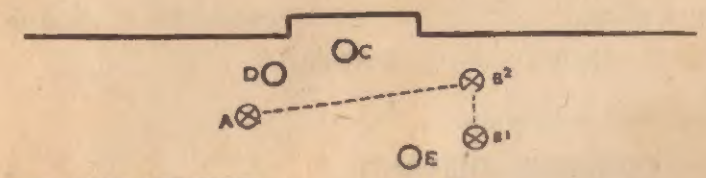


Diagram 2.—NOT OFF-SIDE.

Clear pass to one of same side (contd.).

A has run the ball up, and having **D** in front passes across the field. **B** runs from position 1 to position 2. **B** is not off-side because at the moment the ball was passed by **A** he was behind the ball, and had two opponents between him and the goal-line.

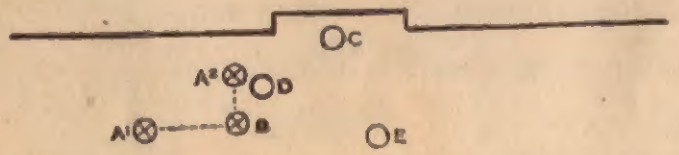


Diagram 3.—OFF-SIDE.

Clear pass to one of same side (contd.).

A and **B** make a passing run up the wing. **A** passes the ball to **B** who cannot shoot because he has **D** in front. **A** then runs from position 1 to position 2 where he receives the ball from **B**. **A** is offside because he had not two opponents between him and the goal-line when the ball was played by **B**.

Illustration Points continued next week

CLUB PARTISANS

REFEREES' DIFFICULT TASK

It is contended by an influential section of sportsmen that people who watch our Soccer games remain at a comparative dead level of ignorance of the rules, especially those relative to offside. It probably would be incontrovertible to definitely state that scarcely 50 per cent. of the spectators thoroughly understand the art and science of a successful referee. Few will disagree with this observation, but nevertheless fully 90 per cent. of the attendants at a football match will argue that they know the rules thoroughly and are just as qualified to express an opinion upon the play as the referee or critic who has devoted perhaps over a score of years at the work. So much for the psychology of football enthusiasts.

It would appear, however, that the average football onlooker gets more enjoyment out of wrangling with another club partisan, or hurling epithets at the referee, rather than endeavouring to master the intricacies and cleverly-executed movements of virile forwards and stalwart defenders. Some again are exceedingly well acquainted with the rules, but prejudice and self-opinion make them intolerant of any views contrary to their own impressions. This class gives incalculable trouble to the referee, at whom they are continually shouting.

The referees' organisations of this State have set a high standard and it must be conceded that the attempt to develop officials capable of interpreting the rules correctly, in conformity with the expressed views of the International Board of Great Britain, is worthy of better recognition than at present appertains.

It is regrettable, perhaps, that first-class referees have not increased in recent years in manner commensurate with the progress of the game in other departments. At the best, the position is an unenviable one. Personality is an important factor. Strength of character, alertness, speed and decisiveness are essentials in the make-up of a successful referee, contemporaneous with the development of the faculty of viewing the most exciting episodes and quickly changing phases of the game with equanimity.

In the appointment of referees for the International games, it cannot be too strongly emphasised that, irrespective of any sectional locality claims, the most proficient be given preference.

What is really wanted in regard to football crowds is the development of the real spirit of sport and of the generous outlook. When this is attained, the task of the referee will be made easier and possibly will stimulate a desire on the part of retiring players to continue active participation in a pastime in which stamina, judgment, restraint and cohesion are the distinguishing characteristics.

KEEP THE GAME GOING

Then some matches are dull because the players are never allowed to get warm. This is sometimes the fault of the players themselves, and sometimes of the referees. The too-prompt and the too-insistent wielder of the whistle is apt to make for dull football, not only by reason of the stoppages he causes, but because fellows are put off. You probably know just what I mean if you have played at all. When you get right down to it the minute the game starts and keep at it with as few interruptions as possible, you feel just right, and give your best. The phrase I used above is perhaps the best of all—you "get warm."

Players, as well as referees, are often to blame for preventing teams as a whole from getting warm. There are full-backs who seem to think that the stands were made to kick the ball over, and whose ideas of defence appear to consist in slipping the ball out of play on the slightest excuse, and sometimes without any excuse at all.

I know very well that in football the necessity for victory and the rights of the spectators often appear to clash. But it seems to me that we fellows in the game should do our best, as far as possible, to reduce the number of dull matches to a minimum. And the more completely we cut out the time-wasting the brighter the contests.

English Soccer Notes

By L. A. W. PEARCE

The English professional team, which was beaten by Switzerland 1.0, last Sunday defeated Portugal at Lisbon 10.0. What a wonderful side Switzerland is. The time is not remote when we may have a European League. With air travel an English side could travel to Moscow in about the time it used to take to go by train from London to Manchester (in a fog). Every European country could put a first class team in the field. Perhaps it may start with a knock-out Cup tournament on similar lines to the Davis Cup.

The position in the League Division 1 is still very open. This is how they stand:—

Wolverhampton W.	41	97.54	56
Manchester U.	42	95.54	56
Stoke C.	41	89.51	55
Liverpool	41	82.51	55

The match today between Liverpool and Wolves should settle the position, but should Liverpool win, Stoke can still win the championship on goal average if they beat Sheffield United on June 14th.

Burnley should be sure of promotion to the first division with Manchester City. They only have to secure one point from their remaining two matches to beat Birmingham. Should Burnley lose both, then Birmingham will go up on goal average.

Brentford and Leeds United go down next season, which commences on August 23rd to Div. 2, and Swansea and Newport County will go down to Div. 3, their places being taken by Cardiff City and Doncaster Rovers.

Doncaster have had a wonderful season. They have scored more points than have ever been scored in any League, viz. 71, and still have one match to play. Their goals scored total 123, five short of the record. Can they score 6 in their remaining match?

Barracking

Much can be written on this all-important subject, which, it must be agreed, plays a big part in the success or otherwise of matches.

From a player's point of view there is no doubt that the voices of their supporters inspires them to victory, and in this respect those who are followers of their respective favourites are helping their proteges to attain the pinnacle of fame.

Unfortunately, in our path of life we meet different kinds of "barrackers," and those to whom I appeal are they who unmeaningly voice their opinion of those other than their favourite player or team, in other words, the hard-worked referee.

There is no doubt that our friends on the fence, line or grandstand find fault with referees, especially when the decision does not meet with their approval, or is against the team whom they follow; to this barracker let us say we appreciate his healthy lung power in giving to his team the spirit to achieve victory, but would ask him to accept the decisions of the referee, whether they be correct or not, remembering the hard and unthankful position he fills.

● Two of soccer's most keen supporters are Senators Donald Grant and W. J. Large, not forgetting Senator Brown.

● Soccer fans, paste this date in your hat. 21st June. Why? Because it's the clash of the season. Canterbury-Bankstown v. Leichhardt-Annandale at Blick Oval.

A Must For Sport Fans

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SPORTING LIFE

FOR THE GRANDSTAND VIEW OF SPORT

Physical Adv
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As founder and
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for the fun of the game; wh
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and physical requirements,
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